

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claim 10 is requested to be cancelled. Claims 1 and 2 are currently being amended. Claims 11-17 are being added. The new claims contain substantially the same language as claims 3-9 and do not contain new matter.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1 -9 and 11-17 are now pending.

Interview

The courtesy extended by the Examiner toward the Applicants' representative during the telephone interview on March 18, 2009 is acknowledged with appreciation. The Interview Summary mailed March 20, 2009 accurately summarizes the interview. Applicants have cancelled claim 10 and rewritten claim 2 in independent form and have included claims 11-17 depending from claim 2 that have substantially the same language as claims 3-9.

Claim Objections

Claim 10 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to include "consisting essentially of" in line 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Shimazawa *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,235,394; hereinafter “Shimazawa”). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is currently amended to replace the terms “comprising” and “containing” with “consisting essentially of.” The language of amended claim 1 is now in accord with the language, suggested by the Examiner. (Office Action, page 7). Amended claim 1 is now in condition for allowance because Shimazawa teaches that a monomer that is reactive with a carboxyl group-containing monomers is an essential component of the invention, and amended claim 1 does not include this essential component. Claims 3-9 depend from an allowable independent claim and should, therefore, also be allowable.

Claim 2 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner (Office Action, page 7) to include “consisting essentially of” in place of the terms “comprising” and “containing”. Thus, claim 2 should be allowable over Shimazawa for at least the same reason as amended claim 1, *i.e.* amended claim 2 does not include a monomer that is reactive with a carboxyl group-containing monomers, an essential component of the Shimazawa invention. New claims 11-17 simply repeat the language of claims 3-9 and depend from amended claim 2. Thus, claims 11-17 depend from an allowable independent claim and should, therefore, also be allowable.

Consideration and allowance of independent claims 1 and 2, and dependent claims 3-9 and 11-17 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

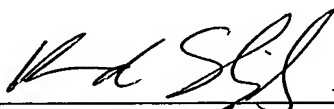
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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